No final decision has been taken in the matter.

Loans by Air India from International Banks

3186. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to raise loans from international banks for acquisition of aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Air India has signed two agreements for financing the acquisition of two B-747-300 (Combi) aircraft. The first is a loan of US$ 160 million from a group of Japanese Banks and the second is under a lease finance agreement through Citi Bank, Tokyo amounting to US$ 115 million.

Annual losses of the Railways due to accidents

3187. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of annual losses suffered by railways due to accidents during the last three financial years;

(b) whether there has been a failure on the part of the RDSO and other railway research organisations in preventing these accidents; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to revamp these organisations for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The loss suffered by the Railways on account of damage to railway property due to consequential train accidents during the last three years is as under:—

1985-86—Rs.	11.45 crores
1986-87—Rs.	16.40 crores.
1987-88—Rs.	11.09 crores (approximately)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Superannuation medical examination for Air Hostesses in Air India

3188. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air hostesses in Air India are required to go in for superannuation medical examination, at the age of 35;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the representative of Air India had informed the Supreme Court that this medical examination was only a formality and the extension was automatic; and

(d) if so, the names of air hostesses who have been denied continuation of service after completing 35 years during 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) According to Clause 47 of Air India Employees Service Regulations, extension of service of an employee is subject to his/her being medically fit. In the case of air-hostesses, the retirement age is 35 years. From that age until superannuation from the services of the Corporation, airhostesses are required to undergo superannuation medical examination annually.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) During 1987-88, Air India have not retired any air-hostess from the service on account of superannuation medical examination after the age of 35 years.

Termination of the London based European Air Hostesses

3189. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India management has recently terminated the services of six London based European air-hostesses;

(b) if so, the details of these air hostesses and the reasons for the termination of their services;

(c) whether it is a fact that these air hostesses refused to appear for superannuation medical examination prior to the termination of their services; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms of their termination of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) Six London based European Air Hostesses of Air India offered to be declared redundant on voluntary basis and accordingly they were declared redundant. They had refused to appear for superannuation medical examination. The names of these air hostesses and the amount paid to them is as under:

Ms A Plocco	—	£ 19,106 36
Ms E Schreiner	—	£ 18,483 24
Ms E Walker	—	£ 17,222.33
Ms N Patel	—	£ 17,314.31
Ms V Perstle	—	£ 16,966.30
Ms A Charrondier	—	£ 13,994.95

Disappearance of bundles of newspaper from Madras Railway Parcel Office

3190. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints dated 30th July, 1988, 18th August, 1988 and 3rd November, 1988 have been received by the Chief Commercial Superintendent (Claims), Madras from District Committee, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Madras about disappearance of bundles of Party's Weekly Paper, Peoples' Democracy from Madras Railway Parcel Office, Madras Central;

(b) if so, the nature of action taken by the authorities to trace the bundles; and

(c) the steps taken against those responsible for disappearance of the parcel packets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action was taken immediately to trace the consignments over the concerned Zonal Railways. On receipt of confirmation about loss of these parcels in transit, compensation has been paid.

(c) Staff held responsible for the loss are being taken up.

Superannuation examination of air hostesses

3191. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of air hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India who appeared for superannuation medical examination during the last five years;